

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00

ARA-06 SAJ-01 /096 W

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P 242000Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6398

INFO AMEMBASSY RUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 33695

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR PARA 5 LINE 2 LAST WORD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AO FR

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: QUAI COMMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 299610; (B) BRUSSELS 11366

1. QUAI ACTING DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA HAREL TOLD US DEC.
23 HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SHARE ANY USEFUL OBSERVATIONS OF
THE FRENCH VICE CONSUL WITH US. HOWEVER, THE QUAI HAS NOT
RECEIVED A SINGLE CABLE FROM LUANDA IN A WEEK
AND THE VICE CONSUL'S EARLIER REPORTS CONTAINED LITTLE
OF INTEREST. HE HAS PACKED HIS BAGS AND IS EREADY TO
LEAVE BUT, CONTRARY TO REF B INFO, HAREL SAID THE MPLA
HAS NOT YET SET A DEADLINE. THE QUAI EXPECTS IT TO DO SO
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AT ANY MOMENT.

2. HAREL SAID THE QUAI RECEIVED A REPORT TWO WEEKS AGO FROM A UTA EMPLOYEE BACK FROM LUANDA INDICATING MPLA MORALE WAS EXCELLENT AND THAT THE MPLA SEEMED VERY SURE OF ITSELF. AN AFP CORRESPONDENT REPORTED FIVE DAYS AGO THAT THE MPLA WAS CLEARLY NOT WORRIED ABOUT A COUNTER-OFFENSIVE AND SEEMED CONFIDENT THAT IT WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPAND THE AREA OF ITS CONTROL. WHILE DESCRIBING THESE SOURCES AS RELIABLE, HAREL CAUTIONED AGAINST READING TOO MUCH INTO THEIR REPORTS.

3. SINCE IT HAS HAD NO INFO OF SIGNIFICANT MILITARY CHANGES DURING THE PAST WEEK, THE QUAI BELIEVES THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA HAS STABILIZED SOMEWHAT. HAREL SAID A REPORT RECEIVED FROM BRAZZAVILLE DEC. 22, INDICATING THAT CUBAN TROOPS WHO HAD BEEN SENT TO THE LUANDA AREA WERE RETURNING TO CABINDA, TENDED TO CONFIRM THIS APPRAISAL.

4. HAREL SAID THAT OVER LUNCH THAT DAY, THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT HAD NOT THE SOVIETS GIVEN SUPPORT TO THE MPLA, ANGOLA WOULD HAVE SPLIT ALONG THE ETHNIC LINES REPRESENTED BY THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE IDEA OF PARTITION WAS TEMPTING, ALTHOUGH HAREL WAS NOT SURE WHETHER HE WAS EXPRESSING HIS OWN OR HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEW. HAREL OBSERVED THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP WITH ANGOLA (OR PART OF IT) SIMILAR TO THAT IT MAINTAINS WITH MOZAMBIQUE. IN SOUTH AFRICAN THINKING, A MILITARY STALEMATE SUCH AS THE CURRENT ONE MAY BE A USEFUL STEP LEADING TO LATER DISCUSSIONS WITH MPLA. HE THOUGHT THE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE PROBABLY TRYING TO BRING PARTITION ABOUT.

5. IN AN EXPANSIVE, SPECULATIVE MOOD, HAREL REMARKED THAT THE KEY TO ANGOLA REMAINS THE MPLA. IT IS NOW CLEAR, HE SAID, THAT THE SOVIETS WILL GO AS FAR AS THEY CAN. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER NETO WILL BE WILLING TO TAKE THE MASSIVE SOVIET AID, AND CONSEQUENT INCREASED

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INFLUENCE, REQUIRED TO RECONQUER AND HOLD ALL OF ANGOLA. MARXIST-LENINIST THOUGH HE BE, NETO IS ALSO AFRICAN AND MIGHT WELL PREFER SOME ACCOMMODATION WITH UNITA AND CONCOMITANT ACCEPTANCE BY OTHER AFRICANS TO SUBSERVIENT TO MOSCOW. MOREOVER, HAREL ADDED, DISPUTES BETWEEN THE LEADERSHIP IN LUANDA AND THE FIGHTERS IN THE FIELD MAY AFFECT MPLA DECISIONS. HE DID NOT RULE OUT AN MPLA ARRANGEMENT WITH ITS OPPONENTS, A SOLUTION

WITH WHICH SOUTH AFRICA WOULD LIVE.

6. INALLY, HAREL SAID THAT PRIOR TO THE OAU JANUARY SUMMIT,
THE FRENCH ARE USING WHAT INFLUENCE THEY HAVE IN AN
ATTEMPT TO HAVE THE OAU REAFFIRM ITS NON-RECOGNITION POLICY
AND CONDEMN ALL FOREIGN INTER-
VENTION IN ANGOLA, AN OUTCOME HE CONSIDERS UNLIKELY,
BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE. GAMMON

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